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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 1231 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JAKARTA
MANILA ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO 29 JAN

QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, RP, MX

SUBJECT: CONTINUING MEXICAN PRESS REACTION, AMB. GREEN
MANILA STATEMENT

REF: (A) MEXICO 1175; (B) MEXICO 1230

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR MEXICAN DAILIES PROVIDED FRONT-PAGE COVER-
AGE OF GOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRESS CONFERENCE IN REACTION
TO AMB. GREEN STATEMENT OF MEXICAN POPULATION PROBLEM. BASIC
THEMES WERE (A) GOM COMPLETE REJECTION OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION
IN POPULATION POLICY, (B) SUCCESS OF GOM FAMILY PLANNING
PROGRAMS, AND (C) ABSURDITY OF LINKING POPULATION BOMB AND
ATOM BOMB. THIS KIND OF REACTION TO U.S. PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON GOM PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY POPULATION, IS TO BE EXPECTED.
END SUMMARY

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2. IN CONTINUING MEDIA REACTION TO JAN. 27 AP REPORT AS SUMMARIZED BY MEXICAN PRESS THAT "MARSHALL GREEN U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE POPULATION COORDINATOR NOTED THAT THE MEXICAN POPULATION PROBLEM AFFECTS THE UNITED STATES AND MUST BE CONTAINED IMMEDIATELY," JAN. 29 EXCELSIOR RAN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF GOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOYA PALENCIA'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN REACTION TO THE STATEMENTS. ALL OTHER DAILIES REPORTED SAME AS WELL.

3. MOYA WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "MEXICO REJECTS ANY INTERVENTIONIST NUANCE, WHETHER OPEN OR VEILED: MEXICAN POPULATION POLICY HAS ITS ORIGIN IN ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND DOES NOT ALLOW FOR INTERVENTION". HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE TWO MILLION BIRTHS YEARLY IN MEXICO WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES IN EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND EMPLOYMENT, "THERE IS A BIG DISTANCE BETWEEN THESE FACTS AND THE ALLEGATION THAT ALL OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED VIA POPULATION...MEXICAN INTERESTS IN THIS AND ANY OTHER PROBLEM ARE ABOVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR NEIGHBORS." MOYA ADDED THAT "THE REAL PROBLEM LIES IN THE INJUSTICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, IN THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE EVERYTHING AND MORE THAT BARELY SUBSIST. MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF HUMANITY IS INSUFFICIENTLY FED AND PRODUCES LEGIONS OF UNEMPLOYED, WHO MOREOVER ARE WITHOUT ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS."

4. MOYA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE GOM FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS HAVE HAD INCREASING SUCCESS WITH MORE THAN ONE MILLION WOMEN BEING ATTENDED. HE REFERRED TO THE INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS REACHED THE WHOLE COUNTRY WITH THE STATEMENTS "VAMOS HACIENDO MENOS PARA VIVIR MEJOR TODOS*" (LET'S BE FEWER SO THAT WE CAN ALL LIVE BETTER) AND "LA FAMILIA PEQUENA VIVE MEJOR" (THE SMALL FAMILY LIVES BETTER) WHICH ARE GEARED TO RAISE THE MEXICAN PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEM.

5. MOYA AGAIN MADE REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FREE WILL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF IT; HE ADDED THAT AMB. GREEN AS A STATED DEPARTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPOKESMAN WAS ECHOING THE NEO-MALTHUSIAN THESES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT THE 1974 BUCHAREST POPULATION CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE THIRD WORLD HAD PREVAILED WITH ITS "DEVELOPMENT THESIS."

6. MOYA ALSO COMMENTED ON AMB. GREEN'S REPORTED CONCERN- AS REPHRASED BY MOYA - "THAT HE (GREEN) IS AFRAID THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF WE LATIN AMERICANS OR MEXICANS "MAY

ONE DAY BLOW UP THE WORLD." MOYA NOTED THAT IT WAS OVERLY SIMPLE TO PIT THE ATOM BOMB AGAINST THE DEMOGRAPHIC BOMB, SINCE THE FORMER IS IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD AND THE LATTER AFFECTED COUNTRIES EITHER DO NOT HAVE SUCH TECHNOLOGY OR USE IT ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

7. EXCELSIOR ALSO REPORTED ON SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH THE GOM MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. GINES NAVARRO AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION, DR. MARTINEZ. DR. GINES NAVARRO NOTED THAT THE MEXICAN GROWTH RATE IS 3.5 PERCENT AND NOT 3.6 AS AMB. GREEN HAD INDICATED. BOTH REPEATED MOYA'S CONCERN THAT THE POPULATION PROBLEM IS STRICTLY MEXICAN.

8. ALSO QUERIED WERE TWO MEXICAN SENATORS WHO REJECTED AMB. GREEN'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MEXICO TAKE FURTHER OFFICIAL MEASURES. ONE OF THE SENATORS COMMENTED (A) THAT THIS IS AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM, BECAUSE THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO DECIDE ON THIS MATTER, (B) THAT AMB. GREEN'S OPINION AND DEEPLY HURT THE MEXICANS.

9. EXCELSIOR ALSO RAN A POLITICAL CARTOON ENTITLED AMOROUS INTERVENTION" DEPICTING UNCLE SAM WITH ONE FOOT ON THE BED OF A QUAVERING MEXICAN COUPLE. THIS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "DEMOGRAPHIC SOVERIGNTY" WHICH STRESSES THE "OFFENSE TO MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND FAMILY DIGNITY" OCCASIONED BY AMB. GREEN'S STATEMENT DRWAING THE INFERENCE THAT IT WAS A CALL FOR FORCED STERILIZATION. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE POPULATION EXPLOSION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. THE EDITORIAL AGREES THAT ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMIGRATION TO THE U.S. CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR THE COUNTRY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT THE MEXICANS INTERPRET THIS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT PROVERTY IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM AFFECTING BOTH RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES AND WHOSE SOLUTION WILL BENEFIT THE RICH COUNTRIES. FURTHER, THE EDITORIAL BLAMES THE U.S. FOR STIMALATING ILLEGAL MIGRATION BY SEEKING CHEAP LABOR, ALTHOUGH THE MEXICANS DO AGREE THAT THE BRACERO PROBLEM IS A MEXICAN ONE; EVERY MEXICAN SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ENJOYABLE LIFE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT WHEN THE MISERY OF THE PRESENT WOULD-BE IMMIGRANTS IS RELIEVED; THE POPULATION EXPLOSION WILL BE REDUCED BECAUSE GREATER EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO MEANS TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF ONE'S FAMILY WILL HAVE LED TO CONSCIOUS PARENTHOOD. JOVA UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POPULATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE023595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0413
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976013/aaaaaccv.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 1175, 76 MEXICO 1230
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING MEXICAN PRESS REACTION, AMB. GREEN MANILA STATEMENT
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, SPOP, RP, MX, US, (GREEN, MARSHALL)
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006